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Extensive hydrothermal activity revealed by multi-tracer survey in the Wallis and Futuna region (SW Pacific)

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Abstract :

The study area is close to the Wallis and Futuna Islands in the French EEZ. It exists on the western boundary of the fastest tectonic area in the world at the junction of the Lau and North-Fiji basins. At this place, the unstable back-arc accommodates the plate motion in three ways: (i) the north Fiji transform fault, (ii) numerous unstable spreading ridges, and (iii) large areas of recent volcanic activity. This instability creates bountiful opportunity for hydrothermal discharge to occur. Based on geochemical (CH₄, TDM, ³He) and geophysical (nephelometry) tracer surveys: (1) no hydrothermal activity could be found on the Futuna Spreading Center (FSC) which sets the western limit of hydrothermal activity; (2) four distinct hydrothermal active areas were identified: Kulo Lasi Caldera, Amanaki Volcano, Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo areas; (3) extensive and diverse hydrothermal manifestations were observed and especially a 2D distribution of the sources. At Kulo Lasi, our data and especially tracer ratios (CH₄/³He ~ 50×10⁶ and CH₄/TDM ~ 4.5) reveal a transient CH₄ input, with elevated levels of CH₄ measured in 2010, that had vanished in 2011 (Futuna 2), most likely caused by an eruptive magmatic event. By contrast at Amanaki, vertical tracer profiles and tracer ratios point to typical seawater / basalt interactions. Fatu Kapa is characterized by a substantial spatial variability of the hydrothermal water column anomalies, most likely due to widespread focused and diffuse hydrothermal discharge in the area. In the Tasi Tulo zone, the hydrothermal signal is characterized by a total lack of turbidity, although other tracer anomalies are in the same range as in nearby Fatu Kapa. The background data set revealed the presence of a Mn and ³He chronic plume due to the extensive and cumulative venting over the entire area. To that respect, we believe that the joined domain composed of our active area and the nearby active area discovered in the East by Lupton et al. (2012) highly contribute to the extensive Tonga-Fiji plume and which thus may not originate from a sole source near the Samoa. Our results also emphasize and support the idea that back-arc hydrothermal systems have a significant input to the regional and global ocean and maybe more important than their MOR analogues.

Highlights

► Extensive and diverse hydrothermal activity in the SW-Pacific. ► Importance of back-arc hydrothermal systems for the global ocean chemistry and biogeochemical cycles. ► ^3He Tonga-Fiji regional plume. ► FSC sets the western boundary of the hydrothermally active zone.

1 Introduction

Most Volcanogenic Massive Sulphides (VMS) deposits mined on land are found in arc / back-arc types of environments indicating that oceanic arc and back-arc systems are first order environments that generate hydrothermal systems and their associated VMS deposits (Franklin *et al.*, 2005; Galley *et al.*, 2007). The first evidence of inactive hydrothermal deposits in the SW Pacific, consisting of silica and barite, was reported on the Peggy Ridge east of the Fiji Islands (Bertine and Keene, 1975). Inactive sulphide deposits were also

discovered in the northern Lau Basin (Hawkins and Helu, 1986). Active hydrothermal venting has known to occur in arc and back-arc settings since 1986 (Both *et al.*, 1986). In the late 1980s, hydrothermal activity in back-arc environments were discovered in the Okinawa trough (Halbach *et al.*, 1989), the Manus Basin (Binns and Scott, 1993; Both *et al.*, 1986), the Mariana basin (Craig *et al.*, 1987; Urabe and Kusakabe, 1990), and the North Fiji Basin (Auzende *et al.*, 1989; Bendel *et al.*, 1993). The first evidence of hydrothermal deposits in the southern Lau Basin was obtained in 1984 (Von Stackelberg, 1988). Active venting in the Southern Lau Basin (Vai Lili and Hine Hina vents) was discovered in 1989 (Fouquet *et al.*, 1991; Fouquet *et al.*, 1993). More recently many other vent fields presenting a great diversity have been identified in the Lau, North Fiji and Manus basins as well as along the Marianna and mid-Kermadec arcs (e.g. Baker *et al.*, 2005; Baker *et al.*, 2006; de Ronde *et al.*, 2007; Embley *et al.*, 2004; Gamo *et al.*, 1993; German *et al.*, 2006; Lisitzin *et al.*, 1997; Lupton *et al.*, 2012; Lupton *et al.*, 2004; Massoth *et al.*, 2007; Resing *et al.*, 2009). The complex tectonic setting of the arc / back-arc system and the diversity in magma composition especially magmas with higher water contents with respect to Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt (MORB) generates a large variety of hydrothermal systems in back-arc environments. Notably arc magmas release a broad range of volatiles and the resultant hydrothermal fluids discharging into the water column are geochemically diverse (e.g Bézous *et al.*, 2009; Mottl *et al.*, 2011; Reeves *et al.*, 2011; Sinton *et al.*, 2003). Despite growing evidence for extensive hydrothermal activity in arc / back-arc environments, knowledge of the distribution and frequency of hydrothermal processes at back-arc spreading centers is much less compared to Mid-Ocean Ridges (MOR) and many areas remain to be surveyed (e.g. Baker *et al.*, 2004; Baker *et al.*, 1995; Baker *et al.*, 2008; German and Parson, 1998).

To that respect, the Tonga-New Hebrides region deserves special attention. It is characterised by a complex geodynamical setting related to the development of the opposite-

facing Tonga and New Hebrides subduction zones and the associated Lau and North-Fiji back-arc basins (Pelletier *et al.*, 1998) (Figure 1). The northern Lau Basin is situated at the transition between the North Fiji fracture zone and the Tonga trench and represents a key area of the Pacific-Australia plate boundary. The estimated overall opening rates are the fastest recorded in the earth with ca. 160 mm/y. This high rate extension is accommodated by two spreading centers (Northwest Lau spreading center - NWLSC; Northeast Lau spreading center - NELSC), several rifts and pull-apart basins (Arculus *et al.*, 2008, Lupton *et al.*, 2012; Pelletier *et al.*, 1998)). This complex structure is clearly driven by the rapid subduction of the Pacific Plate (240 mm/y) which more likely results in the roll back of the slab and the inflow of the Samoan hot and fertile mantle (Wiens *et al.*, 2006). In contrast to classical MOR settings, the northern Lau Basin hosts a wide variety of magmatic products reflecting either the diversity of mantle sources (ex. depleted MOR-type mantle and fertile hot spot-type mantle) or the complexity of magmatic processes related to diffuse volcanic activity (Labanieh *et al.*, 2011; Lupton *et al.*, 2015). This situation creates particularly unstable areas where an unusual number of spreading centers and major regional transform faults accommodate back-arc extension (Pelletier *et al.*, 1998, 2001) (Figure 1). Altogether, these structural and magmatic features are favourable to the establishment of widespread and geochemically diverse hydrothermal systems with both high-temperature (high-T) and diffuse low-temperature (low-T) hydrothermal venting.

In this key area Lupton *et al.* (2004) reported the presence of an extensive hydrothermal ^3He plume originating somewhere near the Samoan hotspot. This major basin-scale plume is similar to the plume generated by the super fast East Pacific Rise and indicates an area of intense hydrothermal activity. Although there are several sites of volcanic activity in the Tonga-Fiji region that may host hydrothermal activity the actual source of the Tonga-Fiji

plume is still unknown. Among candidates proposed by Lupton et al. (2004), the Futuna Spreading Center (FSC) and surroundings exhibit many characteristics conducive to extensive hydrothermal activity. Moreover, the depth range of the area coincides with the predicted one by Lupton and coworkers. This area is located on the western border of the fastest tectonic area in the world at the junction of the Lau and North-Fiji basins (Figure 1). Here, the unstable back-arc accommodates the plate motion in three ways: (i) the north Fiji transform fault, (ii) numerous unstable spreading ridges, and (iii) large areas of recent volcanic activity (Pelletier, 2003; Pelletier *et al.*, 2001). This combination of faults and widespread volcanism is particularly favourable for hydrothermal activity. Moreover, the presence of both a basaltic ridge and off-axis volcanoes opens up the possibility for a variety of fluid and mineralisation compositions to occur. Three cruises (Futuna 1, Futuna 2, Futuna 3) conducted in fall 2010, 2011 and spring 2012 were dedicated to exploration in the vicinity of the Wallis and Futuna islands located in the French EEZ. The objectives were to map the extension of recent volcanic activity, to study the tectonic framework and to locate hydrothermal discharges. Here we report on the water column survey of hydrothermal tracers (nephelometry, methane, manganese and helium isotopes) which led to the discovery of an extensive area of hydrothermal activity with a wide variety of venting. The western limit of this active zone was found to be the FSC. Four distinct hydrothermally active areas named Kulo Lasi Caldera, Amanaki, Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo are presented and discussed here. The present work is key piece of the puzzle of hydrothermal exploration in the SW-Pacific and shows the importance of back-arc hydrothermal activity to the ocean chemistry.

2 Geological settings

Wallis, Futuna, and Alofi islands are located at the transition between the North Fiji and the Lau back-arc basins. This geodynamical setting accounts for complex volcanic and

tectonic activity in the area. Pelletier et al. (2001) and Fouquet et al. (2015a) observed multiple active extensional zones including widespread areas composed of numerous individual volcanoes (e.g. Southeast Futuna volcanic zone) and well organized spreading centers such as the Futuna and Alofi oceanic ridge (Figure 1). It has been proposed indeed that the mafic and felsic volcanic rocks present throughout the study area south-east and south-west of Futuna Island may have a triple origin (Labanieh *et al.*, 2011). West of Futuna Island, the 20-30° trending FSC is composed of a series of en echelon spreading segments. The opening rate of this oceanic ridge has been estimated at 4 cm/yr from the interpretation of magnetic anomalies (Pelletier *et al.*, 2001). East and south-east of Futuna Island, bathymetric maps, and reflectivity data clearly reveal that active extension and recent volcanism occurs in the Southeast Futuna volcanic zone (SEVZ) and along the Alofi spreading center. The SEVZ is a broad zone of diffuse volcanism bordered by the ENE-WSW trending volcanic graben (Named Tasi Tulo graben) to the north and the NNE-SSW trending Alofi spreading center to the south. The SEVZ includes Kulo Lasi active volcano, the Amanaki volcano, the Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo volcanic zones (Figure 1, Table 2).

Kulo Lasi is a shield volcano located about 100 km south-east of Futuna Island (Figure 2A). It represents the most recent volcano in the SEVZ and is composed of basaltic to trachyandesitic lava with no direct geochemical affinity with subduction (Fouquet et al. submitted). The volcanic edifice is ca. 20 km in diameter and appears relatively flat with the top located at a depth of 1200 m and the base only 400 m deeper (ca. 1600 m below sea level). It exhibits a central caldera (5 km in diameter and 200-300 m deep) with a flat bottom covered by recent lavas and a central mound composed of older and tectonised lava flows (Fouquet et al., submitted). The Tasi Tulo area comprises a large central volcano (10 km in diameter and called the central volcano) located near the western end of the Tasi Tulo ENE-WSW trending graben (Figure 2D). It is composed of mafic volcanic rocks locally covered by thick

sediments. The Fatu Kapa volcanic area is in a 20 km wide transition zone between the Tasi Tulo graben, and the Kulo Lasi volcano. Here only small (< 1km) volcanic edifices are seen consisting of young mafic to felsic lavas (Figure 2C). South of the Kulo Lasi volcano the tectonic direction changes to a NNE-SSW direction. Backscattered imagery shows that recent volcanic activity occurs along the crest of the Alofi ridge and on the off-axis Amanaki (Figure 2B). Magmatic rocks are composed of basalts mainly dominated by a MORB-type signature.

3 Methods

To survey the water column for hydrothermal plumes, our exploration strategy made use of a network of CTD/rosette casts with a grid size of about 10 to 15 nautical miles (nmi). Yet targets for CTD/rosette deployments were chosen according to where high resolution bathymetry (multibeam echosounder EM122) and backscatter imagery (monobeam echosounder ER60) pointed to very likely hydrothermal discharges. Several geochemical (CH_4 , Mn, ^3He) and geophysical (nephelometry) tracers were combined to confidently identify that plumes from water column survey were hydrothermal in origin. For a given plume, some tracers may not exhibit any anomalies while some anomalies may not be of hydrothermal origin (e.g. Charlou *et al.*, 1998). When hydrothermal anomalies were detected, additional stations were occupied to better constrain the location of the source of the plume. In parallel to this a water column survey was carried out using the echosounder (EM2040) of the AUV Idef^x (e.g. Dupré *et al.*, 2010; Kumagai *et al.*, 2010; Dupré *et al.*, 2015). We attempted to sample the buoyant plume four times by deploying the CTD/rosette at locations where water column acoustic signals of likely fluid sources were observed and correlated with topographic structures (Dupré *et al.*, 2012; Nakamura *et al.*, 2013).

A high precision Sea Bird 911plus CTD was equipped with a SBE3 temperature sensor, SBE4 conductivity sensor, SBE12 pressure sensor and augmented with two Seapoint

Turbidity Meters (STM). Real-time data were transmitted via a self-supporting electro cable to an SBE 11plus V2 Deck Unit and displayed using the Seasave7 software. Data were converted and processed using the SBE Data Processing software. The Seabird-recommended data corrections were performed. In addition, the 24 Hz nephelometry data were averaged every 2 seconds and outliers were then discarded using the median absolute deviation. The CTD/rosette was deployed either as vertical casts with a single round trip between the ship and 5 m above seafloor or as towed casts in which the instrument was lowered and raised (designated as profile P#) between a constant set depth and 5 m above seafloor whilst the ship moved along a set course. Each cast was designated as follows: FUx-HY-yy, with x the cruise number and yy the operation number. Sixteen standard 8 L Niskin bottles were mounted on the rosette for collection of discrete water column samples. They were fitted with Teflon® stopcocks and sealed with Viton® O-rings, both compatible with metal analyses. Copper tubes were filled in and sealed for onshore He isotopes measurements. Air tight glass ampoules were filled by gravity directly from the Niskin bottles, let overflow before closing to avoid air contamination and immediately analysed for CH₄. Aliquots of water column sample were collected in HDPE bottles for SiO₂ and total dissolved manganese (TDM) analyses. The bottles were acid prewashed for Mn analyses.

Methane was extracted by purge and trap and analyses were carried out by Gas Chromatography-Flame Ionization Detection (7890A - *Agilent*) within 2 hours after samples retrieval. The technique has been modified after Swinnerton et al. (1962) and is described in Charlou and collaborators (1988; 1987) (Suppl. Material).

³He and ⁴He isotope measurements were performed at the CEA-Saclay noble gas facility using a MAP 215-50 mass spectrometer (Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 1988; Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 2010; Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 1992).

TDM and SiO₂ were analysed by segmented flow analyses. Samples for TDM analyses were acidified (sample final pH = 1.8) using a HNO₃ ULTREX II (*J.T. Baker*) solution to release all leachable Mn(II+). The analytical technique is based on the method developed by Stickland and Parsons (1968) (Suppl. Material).

SiO₂ was measured in each rosette sample and the value was compared to a reference profile of the area in order to identify Niskin bottles that would not have closed at the set depth value. Silicate ions were quantified by colorimetry at 660 nm using heptamolybdate ammonium (*Sigma-Aldrich*) on an auto-analyser II from Bran and Luebbe (*SPX corp., USA*) equipped with a numerical colorimeter. The analytical technique is based on the method described by Mullin and Riley (1955) and adapted for automatic analyses after Grasshoff (1970) (Suppl. Material).

4 Results and discussion

In total, 157 CTD casts (of which 105 had associated water samples) were carried out during the Futuna 1, 2 and 3 cruises in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Our exploration strategy enabled us to discover 4 distinct hydrothermally active areas within the volcanic zone East and SE of Futuna Island: namely Kulo Lasi, Amanaki, Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo. No hydrothermal activity could be found on the Futuna Ridge and in the recent volcanic areas, West and NW of Futuna Island (Figure 1).

Our survey showed that the entire active region was characterised by wide-spread hydrothermal activity exhibiting a complex distribution of tracers in the water column. Although CH₄, Mn, ³He and nephelometry generally correlated with each other, some discrepancies between these tracers were observed. Such observations are typical of the SW Pacific Ocean where plumes have usually been reported to display more variability than their

MOR homologues (e.g. Baker *et al.*, 2011; Lisitzin *et al.*, 1997; Resing *et al.*, 2011). Indeed, in the SW Pacific, geodynamic settings, magmatism, multiple type seismicity (subduction, hot spot, faults (Pelletier *et al.*, 2000) and the composition of igneous rocks in Back-Arc Basins (BABs) are factors complicating and influencing the distribution and composition of hydrothermal plumes. For instance bottom anomalies and vertical decoupling of the tracers are common in BABs (Lisitzin *et al.*, 1997).

4.1 Background concentrations

The dataset corresponding to CTD/rosette operations that did not reveal any anomalies on multiple tracers was compiled to obtain background vertical profiles (Figure 1, Figure 3). The survey revealed the presence of chronic plumes of ^3He and TDM while CH_4 showed usual deep ocean background values.

4.1.1 Manganese

Although background values can be highly variable over the oceans the studied area was undeniably enriched in Mn (3-5 nM) compared to all three Pacific (0.1-0.8 nM range (Klinkhammer and Bender, 1980; Resing *et al.*, 2015; Wu *et al.*, 2014)), Atlantic (0.25 nM (Klinkhammer *et al.*, 1985) and Indian Oceans (0.17-0.37 nM range (Kawagucci *et al.*, 2008; Geotraces Intermediate Data Product, 2014)) (Figure 3B). It was still higher than the elevated regional TDM background in the SW Pacific (0.7-1.1 nM (German *et al.*, 2006; Lisitzin *et al.*, 1997)). Considering the numerous indications of high-T hydrothermal activity, low-T diffuse venting and recent volcanism observed in the area, both cumulative hydrothermal venting and volcanic discharges are likely good candidates to explain this chronic manganese input to the Wallis and Futuna region. This excess TDM in the water column was also observed in the rocks with an anomalous number of Mn crusts and deposits on the seafloor in the study area (Pelletier *et al.*, 2015; Pelletier *et al.*, submitted).

4.1.2 Helium

The ^3He background (25-45%) in the Wallis and Futuna region far exceeded typical background values for the West Pacific (< 25%) and was similar to what was observed by Lupton et al. (2012) in the nearby northwest Lau Basin and at station 263 of the GEOSECS expedition (Figure 3C). Elevated background values at 2500 m depth are likely due the distal influence of the East Pacific Rise (EPR) plume (Lupton *et al.*, 2004) while at 2100 m they may be attributed to the recently discovered and nearby Central Caldera plume (Lupton *et al.*, 2012) (Figure 1). The extensive Tonga-Fiji hydrothermal plume is also visible on our profiles with $\delta^3\text{He}$ value up to 45% between 1350 and 1700 m depth comparable to what was reported at station TEW 46 just south of the Futuna Ridge (Lupton *et al.*, 2004). We discuss this ^3He regional plume in §4.5.

4.1.3 Methane

No such methane above the regional background was observed probably because the less-conservative behaviour of CH_4 in the water column. Methane oxidation rate is much faster than the scavenging rate of Mn resulting in a residence time of days for CH_4 vs months for Mn in the water column (e.g. Cowen *et al.*, 1990; de Angelis *et al.*, 1993; Kadko *et al.*, 1990; Lavelle *et al.*, 1992). The local background level of CH_4 in the water column ranged between 0.2-0.5 nM of CH_4 which is in good agreement with values reported for the Pacific (~0.2 nM) and Atlantic Oceans (~0.4 nM) (e.g. Charlou and Donval, 1993; Charlou *et al.*, 1991) (Figure 3A).

4.2 Kulo Lasi Caldera

The Kulo Lasi plume was discovered in 2010 during the Futuna 1 cruise and the area was revisited in 2011 (Futuna 2 cruise). A reasonable coverage of the caldera and its close

vicinity was obtained through 10 CTD/rosettes operations and one NW-SE Tow-Yo (Figure 2A). The plume was characterised by strong and consistent anomalies of nephelometry, CH₄, TDM and $\delta^3\text{He}$. In 2010 (Futuna 1) $\delta^3\text{He}$ (max 109%) was about 3 times the background value, TDM (max 76.4 nM) was up to 20 times more concentrated than in surrounding waters while CH₄ (max 50.5 nM) reached concentrations more than 2 orders of magnitude higher than the local background concentrations (Figure 3). When the site was revisited in 2011 during Futuna 2, CH₄ levels had dropped dramatically by a factor of 10, whilst TDM and $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratio appeared relatively stable (Figure 4 station FU2-HY-20). The survey results display substantial differences in profiles of different tracers at Kulo Lasi (Figure 4). Water column anomalies are usually chaotic in calderas because of their geometry, associated local currents and their relative confinement (e.g. Resing *et al.*, 2009; Staudigel *et al.*, 2004; You *et al.*, 2014). However, our results suggest the presence of several vents, possibly having different chemistries, on the floor and on the walls of the caldera.

4.2.1 Types and distribution of vents

In a weakly stratified ocean, symmetrical plume shapes observed well above seafloor are usually diagnostic of high-T black smoker-type venting whereas anomalies closer to the bottom are diagnostic of low-T diffusive venting. Plume rise heights are the result of differential stratification best defined by temperature (T), salinity (S) and density (ρ) in the water column (Staudigel *et al.*, 2004). CTD profiles inside the caldera show that the water mass was stratified (Suppl. Material Figure S1), suggesting that the observed variability in the vertical and horizontal tracer concentrations is related to both high- (e.g. FU1-HY-34, 40 and 41) and low-T (e.g. FU1-HY-33, FU1-HY-40 and FU2-HY-20) venting within the caldera (Figure 2A, Figure 4).

Besides, we observed a plume depth difference (more than 100 m) between stations located inside vs. outside the caldera (Figure 4). Since the hydrothermal plumes from adjacent active areas (Amanaki §4.3 and Fatu Kapa §4.4) are deeper, the tracer anomaly seen outside of the caldera must originate from the Kulo Lasi volcano itself (Figure 3). However, the symmetrical shape of the plume especially observed at station FU1-HY-38 does not match that corresponding to a simple overflow above the caldera rim (Figure 4). Most probably, this anomaly was created by additional high temperature venting located on the caldera walls. Consistent with this, the high resolution nephelometry dataset indicated venting from the SE wall, as well as above the central cone, and also on the caldera floor (Figure 5).

In 2010 (Futuna 1), the highest CH₄ and nephelometry values were recorded at station FU1-HY-34 and FU1-HY-40 in the south half of the caldera whereas TDM was at a maximum at station FU1-HY-33 and FU1-HY-34 in the center (Figure 2A). In 2011, nephelometry was generally higher along the south-eastern section of this transect. Associated profiles of the other tracers are unfortunately not available in this Tow-Yo mode. Yet discrete samples were collected at 2 constant depths, outside (1160 m) and inside (1310 m) the caldera respectively, where maximum concentrations were expected. Although these particular values may not represent absolute maxima, it seemed that a more intense activity was present in the south-east of the caldera in 2011 (Table 3). Once again this argues towards the presence of multiple vents scattered all over the caldera.

At station FU1-HY-33 located at the base of the central volcanic cone, tracers exhibited a peculiar behaviour (Figure 4): there, helium, manganese and nephelometry showed a maximum at ~1200 m and high concentrations were maintained down to 15 m above the seafloor. These vertical distributions are quite typical of calderas and are likely the result of low-T diffuse flows (Resing *et al.*, 2009; Staudigel *et al.*, 2004). By contrast methane continuously increased from 1100 m down to the caldera floor. Methanogens thriving at

seafloor diffuse vents is not a likely explanation for the decoupling between methane and other tracers since they can hardly sustain the continuous increase of CH₄ with depth, and do not account for the other tracers found in the large anomaly 300 m above seafloor (Love *et al.*, 2008). The possible origin of this large CH₄ flux at the bottom of the caldera is discussed below.

4.2.2 Possible origins of the CH₄ transient source

CH₄/³He and CH₄/TDM ratios in 2010 (Futuna 1) showed two different trends (Figure 6): deep waters (>1300 m) had much higher tracer ratios than shallow waters (<1200 m). On the contrary, 2011 results (Futuna 2) define a unique trend with much lower ratios. This double trend and the drastic change between 2010 and 2011 are not apparent in the TDM-³He plot (Figure 6), indicating that a transient CH₄ source was present at Kulo Lasi in 2010 or earlier and had vanished in 2011.

Excess methane observed at Kulo Lasi in 2010 was likely associated with a magmatic event. The elevated CH₄/³He and CH₄/TDM observed in 2010 are the highest values seen during the three cruises and as high as values reported in mega plumes (Gamo *et al.*, 1993; Love *et al.*, 2008; McLaughlin *et al.*, 1999; Mottl *et al.*, 1995). Magmatic events can produce such high ratios due to the release of large amounts of H₂ and CO₂ and subsequent formation of CH₄ (Butterfield *et al.*, 1997; Lupton *et al.*, 1993). Hydrogen may originate from: (1) seawater reacting with extremely hot rock at cracking fronts associated with dike injection (Butterfield *et al.*, 1997); (2) seawater / lava interaction (Sansone *et al.*, 1991); (3) oxidation of iron to magnetite with a corresponding reduction of H₂O to H₂ in water-rich magma. Carbon dioxide is usually directly released from the magma (e.g. Javoy and Pineau, 1991; Soule *et al.*, 2012) but could also be derived from a thermogenic degradation of organic matter present on the seafloor or in the subsurface when lava is flowing (Haymon *et al.*,

1993). It is probable that in the context of Kulo Lasi, CO₂ and H₂ have mixed origins. Subsequent generation of high amounts of CH₄ could then be the result of: (1) the abiotic reduction of CO₂ by H₂ (McCollom and Seewald, 2007; McCollom, 2013 and references therein); (2) intense methanogenesis associated with a microbial bloom due to elevated concentrations of substrates (CO₂ and H₂) (Holden *et al.*, 1998; Meyer *et al.*, 2013) and warm temperatures (McCollom and Seewald, 2007; Summit and Baross, 1998); (3) a combination of both. A fourth possibility is that lava flowing over the seafloor results in the release of subsurface biogenic methane (Takai *et al.*, 2004). In such magmatic rapid processes ³He and Mn would not have time to be leached from the rocks and would thus keep low concentrations with respect to CH₄.

High CH₄/³He and CH₄/TDM ratios have also been reported in chronic plumes at sedimented settings or in ultramafic contexts at unsedimented ridges with the exception of the Endeavour segment on the Juan de Fuca ridge and the Dodo Great Lava Plain on the Central Indian Ridge (Table 1). A large amount of biogenic and/or thermogenic CH₄ is leached from the thick layer of sediments in the first case (e.g. Cruse and Seewald, 2006; Simoneit *et al.*, 1988; Welhan and Lupton, 1987); serpentinisation of mantle rocks is responsible for the high ratios found at unsedimented ridges (e.g. Charlou *et al.*, 1998); sediments buried at an early stage of the Juan de Fuca ridge's formation have been proposed for the elevated CH₄ concentrations measured there (Cruse and Seewald, 2010; Lilley *et al.*, 1993); while the origin is unclear at Dodo (Kawagucci *et al.*, 2008). These hypotheses are unlikely to apply to our study area where burial of ancient organic matter would be inconsistent with the young volcanic context and no large sedimented zones or serpentinites were observed.

Additional evidence of a recent eruption prior to our visit in 2010 is excess nephels compared to other tracers at Kulo Lasi. Although there are some exceptions, strong positive deviation of nephel vs other tracers has often been observed during or after eruption (e.g.

Feely *et al.*, 1999; Feely *et al.*, 1994; Resing *et al.*, 2009; Resing *et al.*, 2011). Elemental sulphur released during eruption enhances the backscattering efficiency of turbidity meters compared to Fe-Oxyhydroxides particles found in chronic plumes (Baker *et al.*, 2001). The volcanic eruption hypothesis, which is also strongly supported by the presence of fresh lavas, is thus very likely the best candidate to explain methane behaviour.

4.3 Amanaki area

The Amanaki plume signal was first detected in 2010 but most of the sampling was done during the Futuna 2 cruise in 2011. Altogether 12 CTD/rosette and one Tow-Yo operations were carried out on the Amanaki area (Figure 2B). Clear and consistent anomalies in nephelometry, CH₄, TDM, and $\delta^3\text{He}$ were recorded between 1650 and 2150m depth with the plume being 500 m thick and centred at 1900 m depth (Figure 7). The distribution of the tracers was strikingly alike at all stations.

4.3.1 Origin of the plume

An American / Australian cruise conducted in 2008 discovered 3 active calderas south (~25 km) and north-east (~110 km) of Amanaki: the Southern Caldera, Central Caldera and Lobster Caldera visible in Figure 1 (Lupton *et al.*, 2012). However, an influence of these vents in the Amanaki area is unlikely primarily because the prevalent currents at 1500 - 2000 m water depth in the area are north-westward to northward (Reid, 1986, 1997; Speer and Thurnherr, 2012). If we would have detected the Southern and Central Caldera plumes then the anomalies should have logically been greater at our southernmost stations FU1-HY-22, FU1-HY-25 and FU2-HY-27 (Figure 2B). Moreover, the diffuse venting reported for the Southern Caldera is unlikely to produce a detectable plume as far as our stations. Additionally, Lobster Caldera plume is at 1400-1500 m depth and had a $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ ratio of 19

Ra which is significantly different than the 1900m depth and the 9 Ra that we observed (Table 2). This strongly indicates that the Amanaki's plumes must be due to venting sources in the area.

Because the largest anomalies were initially observed at station FU2-HY-29, a 5 km long SW-NE Tow-Yo was performed over that station and an additional 8 water samples were taken along at 1900 ± 25 m depth (FU2-HY-33-Tow-Yo in Figure 2B). Analysis of the entire Amanaki dataset indicates maximum tracer concentrations at stations FU2-HY-29, FU2-HY-34 and on the northern end of the transect FU2-HY-33 Tow-Yo (Figure 7, Table 3). All other stations deployed in a ~8 km-radius circle have lower concentrations (Figure 2B). These observations combined with the fact that TDM concentration decreases rapidly in the water column with increasing distance to the source strongly indicates the presence of the source within a few 100 meters of stations FU2-HY-29 and FU2-HY-34, at the northern end of the Alofi ridge (Lavelle *et al.*, 1992).

4.3.2 Type of venting

The vertical distribution of the tracers at Amanaki resembled the classical ones recorded at MOR where there is usually one clear maxima coinciding for all tracers located well above the sea-floor. Such profiles are usually associated with focused flow and spatially constrained high-T black smoker-type hydrothermal fields. Tracer ratios ($\text{CH}_4/\text{TDM} = 0.1$; $\text{CH}_4/{}^3\text{He} = 2 \times 10^6$; $\text{TDM}/{}^3\text{He} = 27 \times 10^6$) are typical of MOR mafic hydrothermal fields and seawater-basalts interactions (Suppl. Material Figure S2) (Charlou and Donval, 1993; Charlou *et al.*, 1996; Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 1991; Welhan and Craig, 1983). ${}^3\text{He}/{}^4\text{He}$ (9 Ra) of the plume also falls in the upper range of typical MORB (7-9 Ra). That is consistent with the location of Amanaki on the flank of the Alofi active ridge and the MORB type basalts which are the

dominant lavas in the area. All this strongly supports the presence of basalt-hosted hydrothermal activity in the Amanaki region.

4.4 Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo regions

The area was surveyed and studied using 27 CTD/rosette casts and one Tow-Yo in 2011 (Futuna 2) and 2012 (Futuna 3) (Figure 2C&D, Figure 8 and Figure 9). Although hydrothermal plumes in the area were found in the same range of depth (~1400 - 1550 m) and showed similar medium anomalies in CH₄, TDM and $\delta^3\text{He}$, the difference in nephelometry indicated the presence of two distinct plumes which resulted in studying the two zones separately: Fatu Kapa, distinguishable by a weak but clear nephelometric anomaly, and Tasi Tulo not showing any turbidity. Generally, a good correlation between tracers was obtained but a great diversity of profiles was observed in both zones (Figure 8, Figure 9). A 3 km long Tow-Yo transect (FU3-HY-05 Tow-Yo) performed in northern Fatu Kapa supports the apparent complexity of the plumes geochemistry and geometry. Along the profile and at depth ranging from 1465 to 1525 m, great (up to 1 order of magnitude) sawtooth covariation of the tracers was observed (Table 3). A slight increase in all the tracer values was also detected towards the northern end of the section.

4.4.1 Unusual distribution of vents at Fatu Kapa

The geochemical and geophysical survey implied the entire 130 km² area was under hydrothermal influence. Each station showed anomalies with varied tracer distributions in the water column likely suggesting inputs of numerous hydrothermal vents (Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 2004). However, we note that differences between profiles can also be due to topography and density stratification (e.g. Carazzo *et al.*, 2013; Ernst *et al.*, 2000; Ernst *et al.*, 1994; German *et al.*, 1998; Xu and Di Iorio, 2012). Nevertheless, we recognised at least three individual

plumes in the Fatu Kapa area at 1150-1250 m, 1400-1480 m and 1500-1580 m (Figure 8). We attribute the upper anomaly to the Kulo Lasi plume based on consistent depth and increasing signal at stations closer to Kulo Lasi and the two deep plumes to the combined contribution of multiple fields on the seafloor (Figure 8). The distribution of hydrothermal fields over such a large area is very unusual and has not, to our knowledge, been reported. To that respect, while hydrothermal discharge is generally best described by point (hot spots) or line (MOR, arc volcanoes) sources, the Fatu Kapa area is best described by a diffuse areal distribution.

4.4.2 Diversity of venting at Fatu Kapa

First of all analysis of the profiles of the non-buoyant plumes strongly suggest the presence of both high-T venting and widespread low-T diffuse venting (Figure 8). Unravelling the origin of the different non-buoyant plumes at Fatu Kapa cannot be made on the basis of the geochemical tracer ratios. While there are slight differences in the CH_4/TDM at Fatu Kapa our entire dataset yields a ratio of 0.29 (Table 1, Suppl. Material Figure S3). CH_4/TDM values ranging between 0.1 and 1 are associated with sites along the MOR system over the world and independently of the spreading rate, in BABs (Manus, North Fiji, Lau), along volcanic arcs, and at hot spots. Consequently such ratios are not diagnostic and may represent “typical” venting, in which the CH_4 originates from magmatic degassing, bacterial production, reaction between seawater and basalt, or some combination of these processes (Mottl *et al.*, 1995; Welhan, 1988). Because the helium data set in this region is very limited (only collected in 2011) the relationship of helium with methane and manganese were treated using all of the data collected in the Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo regions (Table 1). The values we obtained are also consistent with BABs and/or volcanic arc context (Table 1).

On the other side, a selection of locations, where acoustic signals of probable fluid sources were observed, was made to deploy the CTD/rosette with the hope of sampling the buoyant plume or at least a single fluid source-plume. These targets were named Stéphanie (FU3-HY-06), Idef^X (FU3-HY-16), Obel^X (FU3-HY-18) and Fati Ufu (FU3-HY-23) (Figure 2C). The much higher CH₄ and TDM concentrations in these samples as well as the study of the TS diagrams suggest the operations were successful in getting closer to the hydrothermal sources (Suppl. Material Figure S4 and S5). Differences in the CH₄/TDM ratios and in nephelometry point to at least 3 different fluid sources (Table 1). The variations of CH₄/TDM seemed to be due to changes in CH₄ concentration with a homogeneous TDM distribution over the Fatu Kapa area (Table 1). As discussed previously, hydrothermal sources of CH₄ released by deep-sea hydrothermal systems are multiple: (1) thermal breakdown of complex hydrocarbons at temperatures higher than 100 °C; (2) biological production; (3) outgassing of juvenile carbon as CH₄ from the mantle either by direct gas loss at the magmatic stage or by rock leaching as fluids circulate; (4) abiotic synthesis under high pressure and temperature (Welhan, 1988). (1) implies a significant supply of sediments, which we know are almost non-existent in the study area. (3) and (4) require high-T fluid circulation in mantle rocks which can be ruled out in the geological context of the present study. However, magmatic gass (3) may be considered as an option because the CH₄/³He ratio of the Fatu Kapa plumes was consistent with the MORB glass range (0.7-2.5 x 10⁶) (Welhan and Craig, 1983). Biogenic methane (2) should also be fully considered because Fatu Kapa very likely hosts numerous diffusion zones which constitute favourable environments for microorganisms to grow most notably methanogens (Nercessian *et al.*, 2005; Ver Eecke *et al.*, 2012).

Only Fati Ufu showed a nephelometric anomaly. The absence of nephelometry at Stéphanie, Idef^X and Obel^X may be due to lack of either H₂S or metal to form the sulphur or Fe-oxyhydroxides particles responsible for turbidity. Phase separation and the subsequent

venting of the vapour phase (metal poor) is likely the best explanation to the occurrence of non-turbid fluids (e.g. Ishibashi *et al.*, 1994).

4.4.3 Particle free venting at Tasi Tulo

Anomalies of CH₄, TDM and $\delta^3\text{He}$ were similar, although slightly lower than at Fatu Kapa while CH₄ vs TDM in the Tasi Tulo plume plotted along the same line as Fatu Kapa (Table 1). Yet the absence of turbidity was characteristic in the Tasi Tulo area both in 2011 and 2012 and strongly argues for the presence of a distinct source that remains to be discovered (Figure 2D, Figure 9). Yet based on the absence of nephelometry one can expect that similar types of venting as Stephanie, Idef^x and Obel^x might be the dominant style of venting at Tasi Tulo. The location of this plume at the intersection between the central volcano and the Tasi Tulo graben faults is also very favourable to drive significant hydrothermal activity combining both a local heat source and faults.

4.4.4 Temporal variability at Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo

CTD/rosette deployments made at the exact same location in 2011 and 2012 clearly showed stability of the tracers concentrations over time but significant depth variations (100-150 m) (Figure 8, Figure 9 and Table 4). This suggests that hydrothermal activity is persistent in the area but that either temporal variability of the strength of hydrothermal activity or small changes in current speed and direction (e.g. tidal effect) have substantially altered the height of the plumes (Gamo *et al.*, 1993; German *et al.*, 2006; Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 1998; Rudnicki and German, 2002; Rudnicki *et al.*, 1994).

4.5 Implications for the Tonga-Fiji plume

Lupton et al. postulated that the source of the extensive Tonga-Fiji hydrothermal plume was somewhere near the Samoa Islands or at the northern end of the Kermadec Arc - Lau Basin area and somewhere between 1450 and 1950 m depth. They investigated several structures that occurred to be either inactive (Macchias seamounts) or too shallow (Vailulu, arc volcanoes). The Lau Basin ^3He signal was assumed too weak and too distant to have produced the $\delta^3\text{He}$ observed. Remaining candidates were the NWLSC, the FSC and the Mangatolu Triple Junction. We here show that the FSC is not active. However, the intense and widespread hydrothermal activity discovered in the West of the FSC deserves consideration as the source (or one of several sources) of this regional plume. In addition to our findings, the recently discovered Lobster, Central and Southern Calderas indicate that the active zone contributing to the Tonga-Fiji plume is even wider than our study area and extends to the East (Lupton *et al.*, 2012). While additional hydrothermal activity near the Samoa Islands is also likely, we do not believe that it is solely responsible for the extensive plume observe in the region. Also, the depths of the hydrothermal sources that we discuss here are more compatible with the plume height of the regional ^3He plume. We propose that the center of the plume illustrated in fig 5 in Lupton et al. (2004) could be shifted to the West and thus the $\delta^3\text{He}$ isocontours would appear more concentric. This regional view emphasizes the considerable hydrothermal input to the ocean of the whole domain including Kulo Lasi, Lobster, Central and Southern Calderas as well as Amanaki, Tasi Tulo and Fatu Kapa areas.

5 Concluding remarks and summary

Our study area is characterised by an intense and widespread hydrothermal activity, as evidenced by the number and variety of tracer anomalies, as well as by the high ^3He and Mn background which point to a chronic hydrothermal input over the entire area. The area was

also characterized by the complexity of the distribution of the tracers in the water column: we often observe a substantial spatial heterogeneity in the shape of the plumes recorded by the various hydrothermal tracers at different stations of the same area, as well as a strong temporal variability. We associate these variations to the presence of multiple venting sites of different geochemistry, as well as to the complexity of the geodynamics and the variability with deep currents. To summarise, our study area is best described by 2D-distribution of the activity rather than usual 1D (point or line source). As far as our knowledge this has never been observed in the Pacific where most hydrothermal fields are controlled by back arc ridges or individual volcanoes of the submerged arc. We attribute this to the intense tectonic and volcanic activity creating a huge active domain where numerous heat sources and faults are able to drive widespread hydrothermal systems.

It is also worth pointing out the remarkable diversity of hydrothermal activity found in our relatively constrained study area, including focused and diffuse fluid flow of both high-T and low-T. Different geochemistries of the plumes were also observed and are most probably the result of hydrothermal activity related to all four volcanic (Kulo Lasi), ridge (Amanaki), graben (Tasi Tulo) and diffuse volcanic activity (Fatu Kapa). Notably, our data and especially CH_4/TDM and $\text{CH}_4/{}^3\text{He}$ ratios at Kulo Lasi reveal a transient CH_4 input most likely caused by an eruptive magmatic event.

This very first hydrothermal exploration of the Wallis and Futuna region did not reveal any activity on the FSC that is proposed to set the western boundary of the hydrothermally active region which extends over an area of about 150 x 175 km. It includes the Kulo Lasi Caldera, Amanaki volcano, Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo areas on the French side (this study) and the Lobster, Central and Southern Calderas on the Tongan side (Lupton *et al.*, 2012). We believe

the contribution of this large domain to the regional ocean chemistry is significant and in particular to the extensive Tonga-Fiji plume as shown by the ^3He data.

Altogether our results support the idea that back-arc regions may contribute to a great part to the global hydrothermal heat and geochemical input to the ocean as suggested by Hawkes *et al.* (2015). Also, since hydrothermal plumes constitute the vectors for elements, larval dispersal and nurture microbiological communities, our discovery opens up the question of the impact of back-arc systems on biogeochemical cycles (e.g. Beaulieu *et al.*, 2011; Bennett *et al.*, 2013; Bennett *et al.*, 2011; Carazzo *et al.*, 2013; German *et al.*, 2010; Jean-Baptiste *et al.*, 1998; Kim *et al.*, 1994; McCollom, 2000). Therefore systematic survey and exploration of the region should go on with high resolution (e.g. C isotopes) plume survey, as well as submersible dives to collect and analyse hydrothermal fluids. These additional data will also aim at discussing more in depth some of the topics that have only been approached in the present paper devoted to the general presentation of the area. Indeed the regional ^3He plume, the CH_4 behaviour at Kulo Lasi, the extension limits of the hot diffuse venting at Fatu Kapa and the heat / mass fluxes are fascinating subjects that deserve special attention.

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Figure captions

Figure 1: General bathymetric map of the study area. Low resolution bathymetric data are from the ALOFI cruise (Pelletier *et al.*, 2001) and high resolution data from the Futuna 1, 2 and 3 cruises (2010, 2011, 2012). Full circles mark all CTD/Rosette operations conducted during the Futuna 1 (green), 2 (red) and 3 (yellow) cruises. The white / black rim of these full circles stand for absence / presence of tracers anomaly. All structure names were chosen during those cruises except from the Futuna Ridge (ALOFI cruise, 2000).

Figure 2: (A) Bathymetric map of the Kulo Lasi Caldera (data from the Futuna 1 cruise). CTD/Rosette stations are represented by green full circles (Futuna 1) and red full circles (Futuna 2). A Tow-Yo transect was conducted in 2011 (Futuna 2) along the red line in the NW-SE direction. Each dot along this line marks a vertical profile referred as Px in the text. (B) Bathymetric map of the Amanaki area (data from the Futuna 1 cruise). CTD/Rosette stations are represented by green full circles (Futuna 1) and red full circles (Futuna 2). A Tow-Yo transect carried out in 2011 (Futuna 2) is represented by the red line (FU2-HY-33 Tow-Yo). All stations within the yellow circle exhibited lower values of the geochemical tracers than at station FU2-HY-29. (C) Bathymetric map of the Fatu Kapa region (data from the Futuna 1 and 3 cruises). CTD/Rosette casts are represented by red full circles (Futuna 2) and yellow full circles (Futuna 3). Target symbols represent some of the fluid sources acoustic signals and putative hydrothermal vents

that were given a name. The yellow line represents the FU3-HY-05 Tow-Yo operation transect. (D) Bathymetric map of the Tasi Tulo region (data from the Futuna 1 and 3 cruises). CTD/Rosette casts are represented by red full circles (Futuna 2) and yellow full circles (Futuna 3).

Figure 3: Global concentrations of CH₄ in nM (A), TDM in nM (B) and $\delta^3\text{He}$ in % (C) measured in the water column (depth in m) over the entire study area. These plots compile all hydrocasts data acquired during the Futuna 1, 2 and 3 cruises. Grey crosses are background values, full markers are Amanaki data, thin open markers are Kulo Lasi data, and thick open markers are Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo data. Circles stand for CH₄, triangles for TDM and black crosses for $\delta^3\text{He}$. The depth range of the different plumes is roughly indicated by the braces. Fatu Kapa and Tasi Tulo plumes occur at similar depth range and could not be distinguished on the plots. Stations NLH-14 (14°50.59'S / 175°56.49'W) and NLH-16 (14°59.99'S / 176°00.01'W) represent the regional ³He background of the nearby Northwest Lau Basin (see Fig. 5 in Lupton *et al.*, 2012). Geosecs station 263 (16°41'S / 167°3'W) represents background ³He of the western Pacific east of the Tonga Trench (Ostlund *et al.*, 1987).

Figure 4: This figure shows all the vertical profiles of nephelometry (red empty squares), CH₄ (blue circles), TDM (green triangles) and $\delta^3\text{He}$ (black plus) obtained inside and outside the Kulo Lasi Caldera, both in 2010 (Futuna 1) and 2012 (Futuna 2). Please refer to Figure 2A for location of the stations.

Figure 5: 2D-map of the nephelometry above the Kulo Lasi Caldera and along a NW-SE transect (left to right). Data of individual profiles recorded during the FU2-HY-22 Tow-Yo operation (shown in top panel) were interpolated and contoured using a MATLAB® program.

Figure 6: Tracer relations in the Kulo Lasi plume. Shallow waters gather the 900-1200 m layer data, deep waters the > 1300 m data and mixed layer the 1200-1300 m data. These distinctions apply only to 2010 data (Futuna 1). 2011 corresponds to data obtained during the Futuna 2 cruise.

Figure 7: This figure shows all the vertical profiles of nephelometry (red empty squares), CH₄ (blue circles), TDM (green triangles) and $\delta^3\text{He}$ (black plus) obtained in the Amanaki area. Please refer to Figure 2B for location of the CTD/rosette stations.

Figure 8: This figure shows all the vertical profiles of nephelometry (red empty squares), CH₄ (blue circles), TDM (green triangles) and $\delta^3\text{He}$ (black plus) recorded at Fatu Kapa. Data are presented West to East (left to right) and North to South (top to bottom). Please refer to Figure 2C for location of the CTD/rosette stations.

Figure 9: This figure shows all the vertical profiles of CH₄ (blue circles), TDM (green triangles) and $\delta^3\text{He}$ (black plus) recorded at Tasi Tulo. Nephelometry was recorded but is not shown for clarity since no anomalies were detected. Please refer to Figure 2D for location of the CTD/rosette stations.

Tables

Table 1 : Maximum value of CH₄ and Mn in hydrothermal plumes over the world. These values are indicative as they are affected by the distance to the source. Ratios were obtained by regression if not otherwise mentioned. When only maximum values were available, an estimation of the ratio was calculated by regression between the background values of the area and the maximum values (^{max}). If exact values did not appear in the text, estimation were made by reading values on figures (*). Calculated values from published data are in bold.

	CH ₄	Mn	CH ₄ /TDM	$\delta^3\text{He}$	CH ₄ /3He	TDM/3He	References
	nM	nM	(mol/mol)	%	mol/mol ($\times 10^6$)	mol/mol ($\times 10^6$)	
FUTUNA							
Non buoyant plumes							
Fatu Kapa	11.2	34.7	0.78	72 ^c	1.3 ^d	4.2 ^d	<i>This work</i>
Tasi Tulo	4.9	14.3	0.36	83 ^c	1.3 ^d	4.2 ^d	<i>This work</i>
Kulo Lasi 2010							
Shallow waters (900-1200 m)	34.3 ^a	28.7 ^a	0.70	104	6.4	11.1	<i>This work</i>
Deep waters (> 1300 m)	50.5 ^a	76.4 ^a	4.70	109	50.4	11.1	<i>This work</i>

Kulo Lasi 2011	5.3 ^b	35.9 ^b	0.12	99	2.0	11.5	<i>This work</i>
Amanaki	3.1	46.8	0.07	74	2	27	<i>This work</i>
Buoyant plumes (Fatu Kapa area)							
Stéphanie (no nephel)	49.6	54.3	0.86	-	-	-	<i>This work</i>
Idef ^x (no nephel)	58.1	47.1	1.43	-	-	-	<i>This work</i>
	108.						
Obel ^x (no nephel)	9	52.5	1.68	-	-	-	<i>This work</i>
Fati Ufu (nephel)	23.7	47.8	0.47	-	301	596	<i>This work</i>
Fast Spreading Ridges							
EPR 8°42'-9°08'N	5.5	42.0	0.07	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995</i>
EPR 9°08'-9°39'N	33.0	24.0	0.51	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995</i>
					11.5 ^{*ma}		<i>Mottl et al., 1995 ;</i>
EPR 9°39'-9°53'N	89.0	18.0	10.5	70*	x	-	<i>Lupton et al., 1993</i>
EPR 9°53'-10°07'N	35.0	37.0	0.85	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995</i>
EPR 10°30'-11°52'N	5.9	76.0	0.08	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995</i>
							<i>Mottl et al., 1995 ;</i>
EPR 11°N	5.9	76.0	0.08	75*	7.1 ^{*max}	-	<i>Lupton et al., 1993</i>
EPR-13°N	8.1	37.0	0.13	77.4	3.0	-	<i>Charlou et al., 1991</i>
							<i>Kim, 1983 ; Lupton et</i>
EPR-21°N	0.7	128.0	0.05	46	5.0-6.3	17.4	<i>al., 1980; Lilley et al.,</i>
							<i>1982</i>
EPR 19°30 - 20°S	-	-	0.13	-	7.0-	-	<i>Kim, 1983</i>
27.5°S ~ 32.5°S					20.6		
(Eastern plume)	23.7	-	0.09	-	3.7	48.1	<i>Gharib et al., 2005</i>
27.5°S ~ 32.5°S							
(Western plume)	16.8	-	0.08	-	17.1	187.1	<i>Gharib et al., 2005</i>
Intermediate spreading ridges							
Dodo GLP 18°20'S (C25)	36.7	8.7	~4	-	-	-	<i>Kawagucci et al., 2008</i>
Dodo GLP 18°20'S (Upper plume)	18.4	6.3	~0.5	35	-	~9	<i>Kawagucci et al., 2008</i>
Dodo GLP 18°20'S (Bottom plume)	30.3	5.3	~6	33	> 60	~9	<i>Kawagucci et al., 2008</i>
CIR 19°34'S Roger palteau	7.0	7.0	~1	56	4.0	~5	<i>Kawagucci et al., 2008</i>
							<i>Plüger et al., 1990 ;</i>
CIR 24°S	9.0	23.1	0.41	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995</i>
CIR 25°17' - 25°26'S	3.3	9.8	0.27	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1996</i>

RTJ 25°32'S	1.3	3.0	0.42^{ma} x	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1996</i>
SEIR 25°40'S	0.7	2.5	0.23^{ma} x	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1996</i>
Slow spreading ridges							
JdF Endeavour 47°57'N	390 *	46.0	7-12*	52	78- 152*	6-21*	<i>Rosenberg et al., 1988</i> ; <i>Kadko et al., 1990</i> 22.5- <i>Baker et al., 2011 and</i> 97.6 <i>ref therein</i>
JdF (event plumes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Mottl et al., 1995 ;</i>
JdF norht Cleft	-	48- 263	0.45- 0.78	83- 204	-	85.1	<i>Massoth et al., 1994</i>
JdF south Cleft	3.0	14- 156	0.11 ^{ma} x	33- 69	-	16.1- 80.0	<i>Winn et al., 1986 ;</i> <i>Massoth et al., 1994</i>
JdF Cleft (event plumes)	-	56- 191	-	74- 108	-	24.6- 59.8	<i>Massoth et al., 1994</i>
Gorda ridge 42°45'N	10.3	10.0	1.1^{max}	52	-	7.5	<i>Baker et al., 1987</i>
TAG 26°N (MAR) non-buoyant	9.5	37*- 102	0.28	-	-	-	<i>Charlou et al., 1993 ;</i> <i>Rusakov et al., 2009</i>
TAG 26°N (MAR) buoyant	672. 7	7000. 0	0.10	-	-	35.6	<i>Charlou et al., 1993 ;</i> <i>Rudnicki and</i> <i>Elderfield, 1992</i>
Snake Pit 23°N (MAR) non-buyant	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Charlou et al., 1993</i>
Snake Pit 23°N (MAR) buoyant	326. 8	3850. 0	0.09	-	-	38.9	<i>Charlou et al., 1993 ;</i> <i>Rudnicki and</i> <i>Elderfield, 1992</i>
Broken Spur	-	2.1	-	-	-	-	<i>Rusakov et al., 2009</i>
Lucky Strike (37°N)				19.0 5	-	24.1	<i>Baker et al., 2011 ;</i> <i>Jean-Baptiste et al.,</i> <i>1998; Aballéa et al.,</i> <i>1998</i>
Reykjanes Ridge 63°N	18.0	9.3 60.0	0.3	-	-	-	<i>German et al., 1994</i>
Rainbow 36°N (MAR)	170 *	160*	1.2	37	131.0	110.0	<i>Jean-Baptiste et al.,</i> <i>2004</i>
North ATJ (38-40°N) 15°N (MAR)	- 17.8	3.5 1.9*	- 9.09	- -	- -	- -	<i>Aballéa et al., 1998</i> <i>Charlou et al., 1993</i>
Logatchev 14°45'N (MAR)	323. 0	127.0	2.56 ^{ma} x	-	-	-	<i>Marbler et al., 2010</i>
Logatchev 14°45'N (MAR)	100 *	-	-	35*	94.0	-	<i>Schmale et al., 2012</i>
Nibelungen 8°S (MAR)	115. 0	25.0	4.6 ^{max}	-	-	-	<i>Devey et al., 2005</i>

Turtle Pits 5°S (MAR)	65.6	142.0	0.46 ^{ma} x	-	-	-	<i>Marbler et al., 2010</i>
Lilliput 9°33'S (MAR)	57.5	-	-	-	-	-	<i>Haase et al., 2009</i>
Drachenschlund 8°18'S (MAR)	202.	1	>10	-	19.1	408.0	<i>Keir et al., 2008</i>
Edmond	-	85*	-	-	-	-	<i>Sands et al., 2012</i>
Carlsberg Ridge (62 - 66°E)	-	2.7	-	16.9	-	8.0	<i>Ray et al., 2012</i>
Ultraslow spreading ridges							
SWIR 37°47'N	-	10.4	-	-	-	-	<i>Wang et al., 2012</i>
SWIR 25°48'S	0.7	2.0	0.33 ^{ma} x	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1996</i>
Back arc basins							
N-Fidji 16-20°S	12.8	-	0.10- 0.41 ^{ma} x	71	10	24.4- 100	<i>Auzende et al., 1988 ; Craig et al., 1987</i>
N-Fidji 19°S (lower = deep plume)	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	<i>Nojiri et al., 1989</i>
N-Fidji 19°S (mega plume)	-	-	0.39	-	-	-	<i>Nojiri et al., 1989</i>
Okinawa Trough	29.1	9.8	2.08	65	32.0	3.9	<i>Ishibashi et al., 1988</i>
Manus							
East-Manus (deep plume)(3°40'S)	2*	(31.7) -99.7	0.02- 0.05	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1993 ; (Lisitzin et al., 1997)</i>
East-Manus (shallow = mega plume)	6.5	20*	0.29	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1993</i>
Manus High (3°30'S)	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	<i>Lisitzin et al., 1997</i>
Central-Manus (3°-3°20'S)	20.6	(44.8) -70*	0.26	-	-	-	<i>Gamo et al., 1993 ; (Lisitzin et al., 1997)</i>
Lau Basin							
NELSC (event plume)(15°S)	-	-	-	-	-	97.6	<i>Baker et al., 2011</i>
NELSC (chronic plume)(15°S)	14.1	(4.7)- 350	0.04*	-	-	-	<i>Kim et al., 2009 ; (Lisitzin et al., 1997)</i>
MTJ (15°30'S)	1.9*	9.4- (10.9)	0.18*	-	-	-	<i>Kim et al., 2009 ; (Lisitzin et al., 1997)</i>
FRSC (16°30'S)	1.0	13.4	-	41	-	23.2	<i>German et al., 2006 ; Kim et al., 2009</i>
CLSC (18°30'S)	-	5.1	-	-	-	-	<i>Lisitzin et al., 1997</i>
ELSC (20°S)	-	45.5	-	-	-	-	<i>Lisitzin et al., 1997</i>

			0.02-				
Valu Fa Ridge (22°S)	1.7- 3.7	13- 197	0.13 ^{ma} x	39- 50	0.7- 1.5^{max}	5.5- 69.9^{max}	<i>Massoth et al., 2007</i>
Central caldera	-	214.9	-	94.8	-	1100	<i>Lupton et al., 2012</i>
Southern Caldera	-	14.9	-	52	-	-	<i>Lupton et al., 2012</i>
Lobster Caldera	-	51.9	-	239	-	7.6	<i>Lupton et al., 2012</i>
East Scotia	-	5.0- 6.0	-	-	-	-	<i>German et al., 2000</i>
Coriolis Trough	-	-	-	-	-	-	<i>McConachy et al., 2005</i>
Vanuatu	3.4	15.1	-	-	-	-	
Woodlark basin (east)	-	76.5	-	-	-	-	<i>Lisitzin et al., 1997</i>
Woodlark basin (central)	-	118.3	-	-	-	-	<i>Lisitzin et al., 1997</i>
Volcanic arcs							
			0.03-				
South Tonga	3.2- 7.1	4-108	3.20 ^{ma} x	18- 73	1.1- 2.1^{max}	1.7- 32.9^{max}	<i>Massoth et al., 2007</i>
Marianna (13.5°- 23.2°N)	1.6- 94	3.2- 214	0.02- 1.62 ^{ma} x	8- 314	0.6-7.0- (21.5)	3.9- 83.3	<i>Resing et al. 2009 ; Horibe et al., 1986</i>
Mid-Kermadec	1.7- 8.1	4-303	0.02- 0.53 ^{ma} x	8-65	0.7- 2.4^{max}	0.8- 112^{max}	<i>deRonde et al., 2007</i>
Hot spots							
Teahitia Seamount	0.87 (14)	18.8 (60)	nl	-	-	-	<i>Stuben et al., 1992 ; (2 year earlier cruise)</i>
Macdonald Seamount	351. 0	255.0	1.31	-	-	-	<i>Stuben et al., 1992</i>
Lo'ihī seamount	25.7	20.5*	0.26- 0.33 ^{ma} x	400- 2000	0.47	0.14- 1.1	<i>Sakai et al., 1987 ; Mottl et al., 1995</i>
Dispersing Plume (1996 -collapse)	-	236.0	-	-	-	-	<i>Malahoff et al., 2006</i>
Dispersing Plume (1996 -6 weeks)	-	67.0	-	-	-	-	<i>Malahoff et al., 2006</i>
Dispersing Plume (1997-1998)	-	19-22	-	-	-	-	<i>Malahoff et al., 2006</i>
Easter Island	2.5	-	-	965	0.2	-	<i>Craig et al., 1984</i>
Azores	-	2.0	-	-	-	-	<i>Aballéa et al., 1998</i>
Others							
Bransfield Straight							

Hook Ridge (57°W)	-	9.6	-	-	-	-	<i>klinkhammer et al., 2001</i>
Middle Sister (59°WS)	-	22.3	-	-	-	-	<i>klinkhammer et al., 2001</i>
Guaymas	-	-	-	-	3100	-	<i>Wehlan and craig, 1982</i>

^a maximum not detected at same location and depth

^b this maximum value was detected at 2 different locations

^c data from only one station

^d too little data in 2011 to separate the 2 zones (Tasi Tulo and Fatu Kapa)

Table 2 : Major features about the main geological structures of the study area

	<i>Volcano / tectonic context</i>	<i>Rock type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Plume height (m)</i>	<i>³He/⁴He</i>
Futuna Ridge	inactive ridge	basalt	700	n/a	7.2
Kulo Lasi	volcano with caldera	basalt + trachyandesite	1500	~1150 to seafloor	9.1
Amanaki's	ridge	MORB-type basalt	2400	~1900	9.0
Fatu Kapa	diffuse volcanic activity	basalt, andesite and rhyolite	1600 - 1700	~1300 to 1700	8.8
Tasi Tulo	graben + central volcano	basalt	1700 - 1900	~1300 to 1600	8.8

Table 3: Concentration of the tracers along Tow-Yo transects.

Site <i>Station</i>	Profile #	Depth <i>m</i>	Nephel <i>NTU</i>	[CH ₄] <i>nM</i>	TDM <i>nM</i>	δ ³ He %
Kulo Lasi <i>FU2-HY-22 tow-yo</i> <i>NW to SE</i>	P2	1164	0.017	0.6	1.9	35.5
	P3	1162	0.015	0.4	1	28.9
	P4	1160	0.02	0.5	1	29.4
	P5	1311	0.116	5.1	35.9	80.6
	P6	1313	0.088	3.9	17	76.2
	P7	1313	0.085	4.2	20.6	77.1
	P8	1311	0.08	4.7	21.6	75.2
	P9	1312	0.085	4.1	23.9	91.2
	P10	1313	0.102	4.3	17.6	82.4
	P11	1313	0.039	3.5	22.4	80.2
	P12	1317	0.038	3.9	29.1	82.6
	P13	1313	0.062	3.4	21.7	99.1
	P14	1312	0.228	4.7	18.8	95.9
	P15	1156	0.057	1.8	5.8	58.5
	P16	1161	0.039	1.4	3.5	49.2
	P17	1161	0.033	1.3	3.6	50.9
	Amanaki <i>FU2-HY-33 tow-yo</i> <i>SW to NE</i>	P1	1875	0.038	2.9	36.6
P2		-	-	-	-	-
P3		1869	0.037	2.5	33.8	67.4
P4		-	-	-	-	-
P5		1905	0.038	3.0	35.8	73.1
P6		-	-	-	-	-
P7		1905	0.036	2.4	31.3	68.0
P8		1910	0.037	2.9	33.8	-
P9		-	-	-	-	-
P10		1925	0.034	2.2	28.3	-
P11		-	-	-	-	-
P12		1900	0.040	3.1	34.6	-
P13		-	-	-	-	-
Fatu-Kapa <i>FU3-HY-05 tow-yo</i> <i>SW to NE</i>	P1	1470	0.017	0.8	5.8	-
	P2	1467	0.020	1.0	5.9	-
	P3	1470	0.019	0.9	6.4	-
	P4	1472	0.018	2.5	10.0	-
	P5	1470	0.023	3.8	12.0	-
	P6	1468	0.021	3.8	11.5	-

P7	1470	0.021	3.4	9.8	-
P8	1524	0.024	5.1	11.5	-
P8	1514	0.023	4.5	12.7	-
P9	1476	0.022	3.9	10.7	-
P9	1516	0.021	3.7	10.8	-
P10	1523	0.023	4.8	11.1	-
P11	1525	0.034	-	-	-
P11	1499	0.032	8.1	14.4	-
P12	1510	0.022	6.7	13.7	-
P12	1490	0.022	5.5	11.5	-

Table 4 : Temporal variability of tracers at stations reoccupied at one year interval

	Fatu Kapa maxima		Tasi Tulo maxima	
	2011 (FU2-HY-38)	2012 (FU3-HY-08)	2011 (FU2-HY-13)	2012 (FU3-HY-13)
Plume depth (m)	1375	1525	1400	1500
CH ₄ (nM)	5.9	6.0	3.3	4.8
TDM (nM)	23.8	17.1	9.9	14.3
Nephel (NTU)	0.030	0.024	-	-

Highlights

- extensive and diverse hydrothermal activity in the SW-Pacific
- importance of back-arc hydrothermal systems for the global ocean chemistry and biogeochemical cycles
- ^3He Tonga-Fiji regional plume
- FSC sets the western boundary of the hydrothermally active zone

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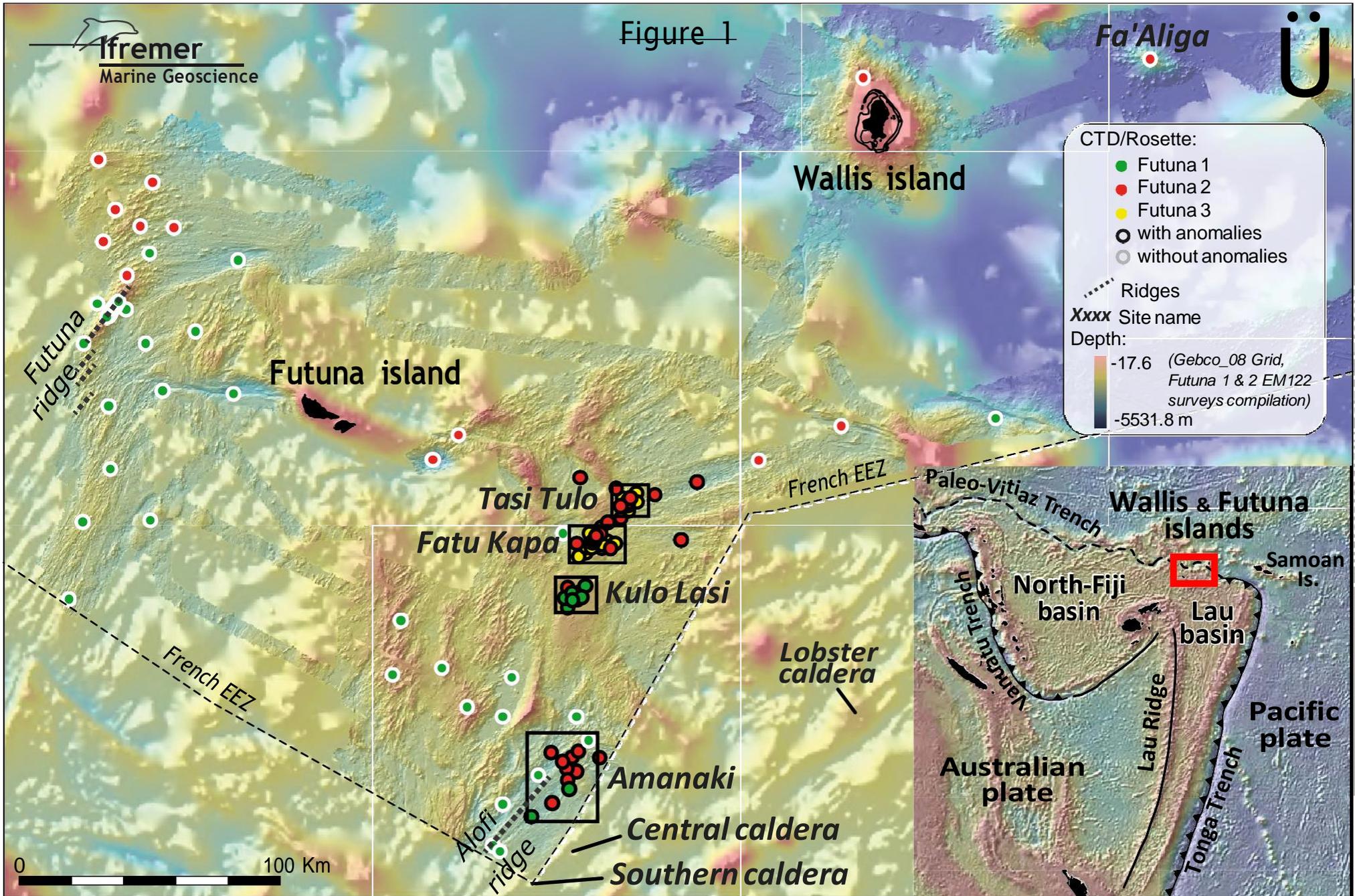


Figure 2

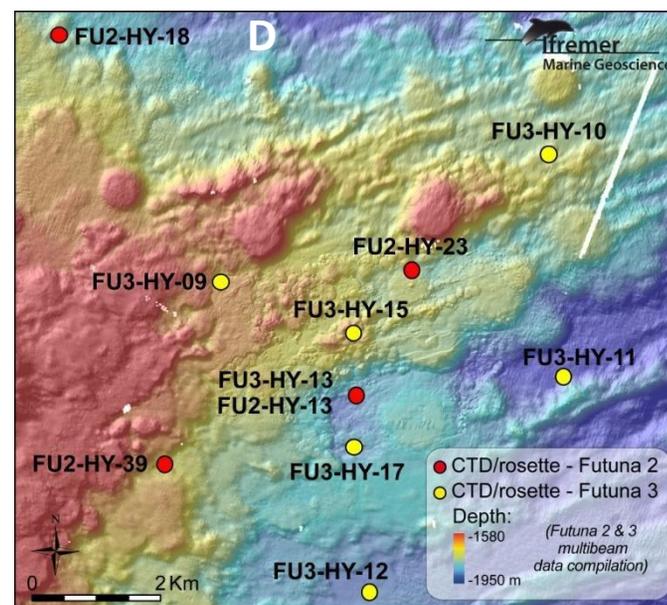
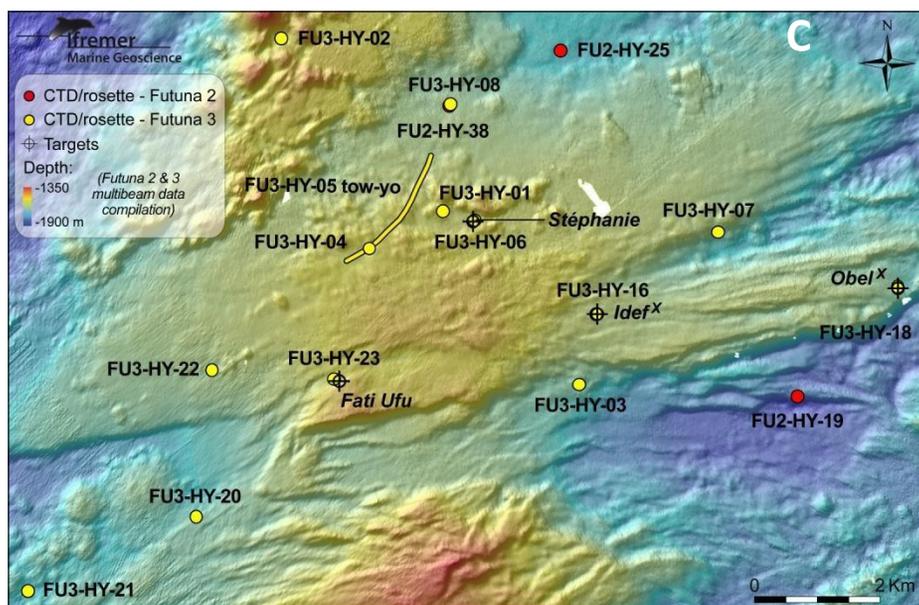
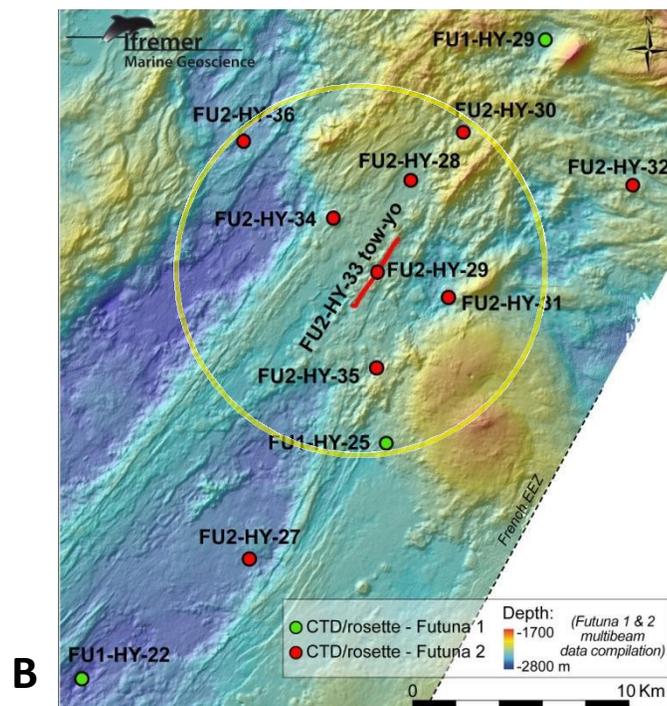
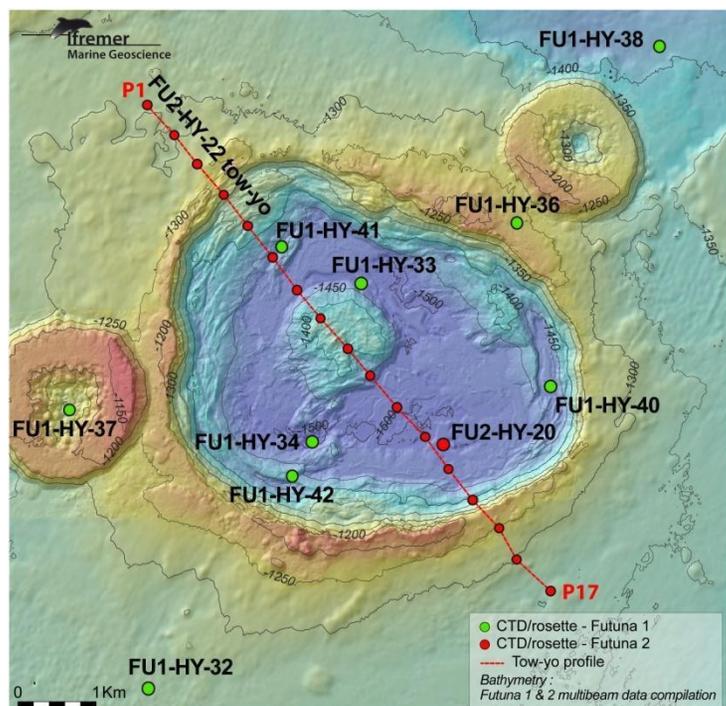


Figure 3

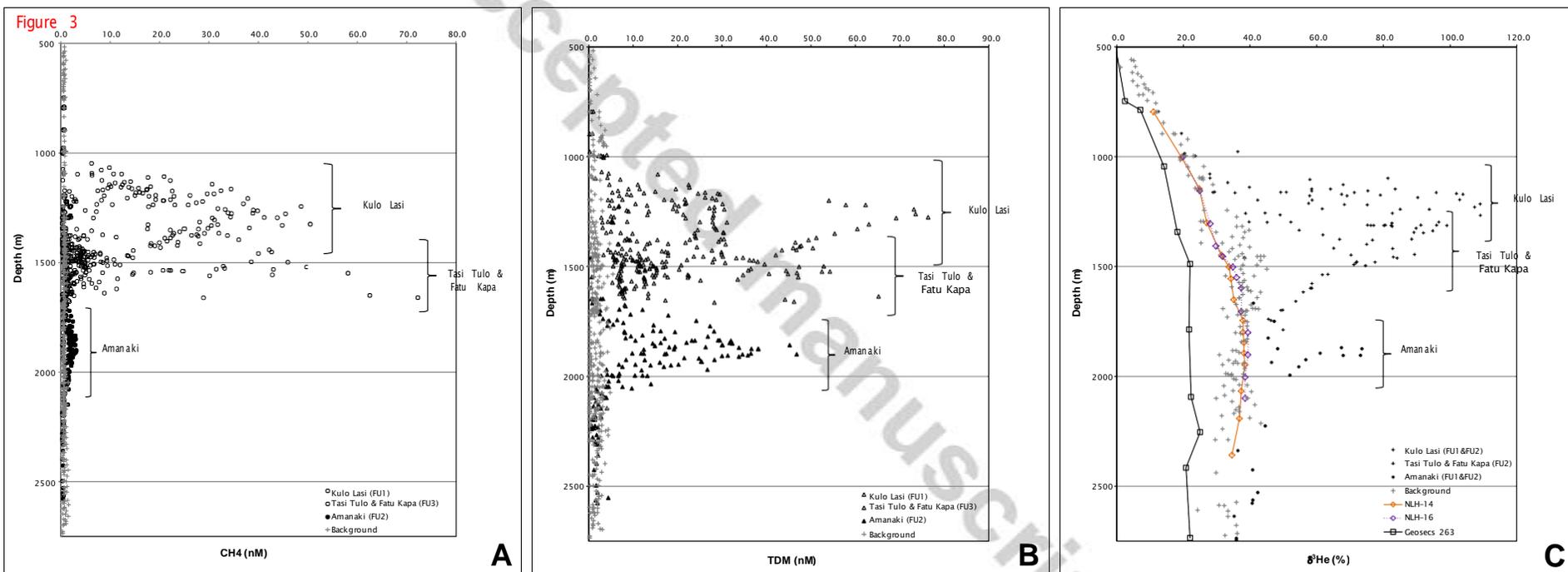
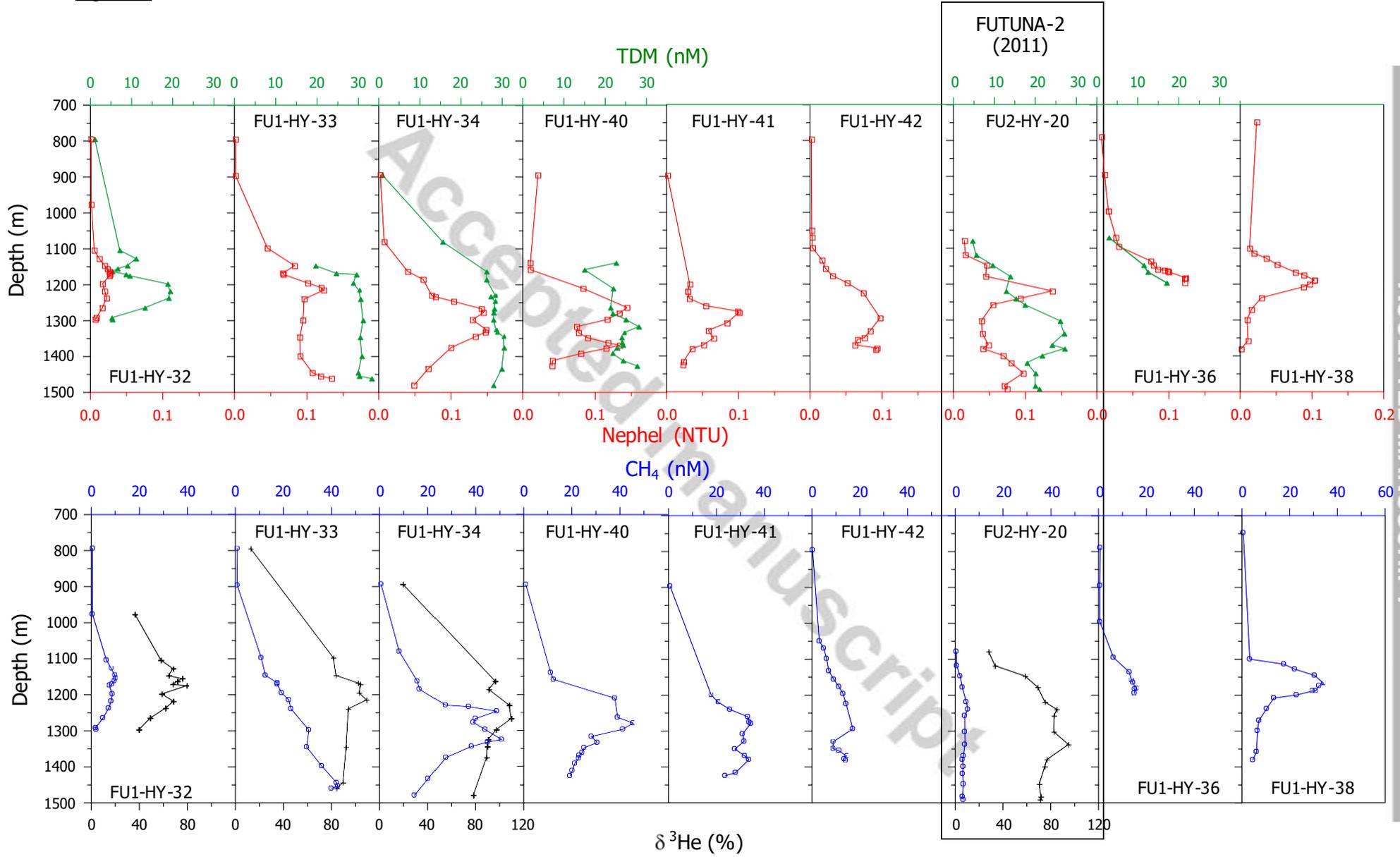


Figure 4



ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

SW of caldera	Inside the caldera	NE of caldera
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Figure 5

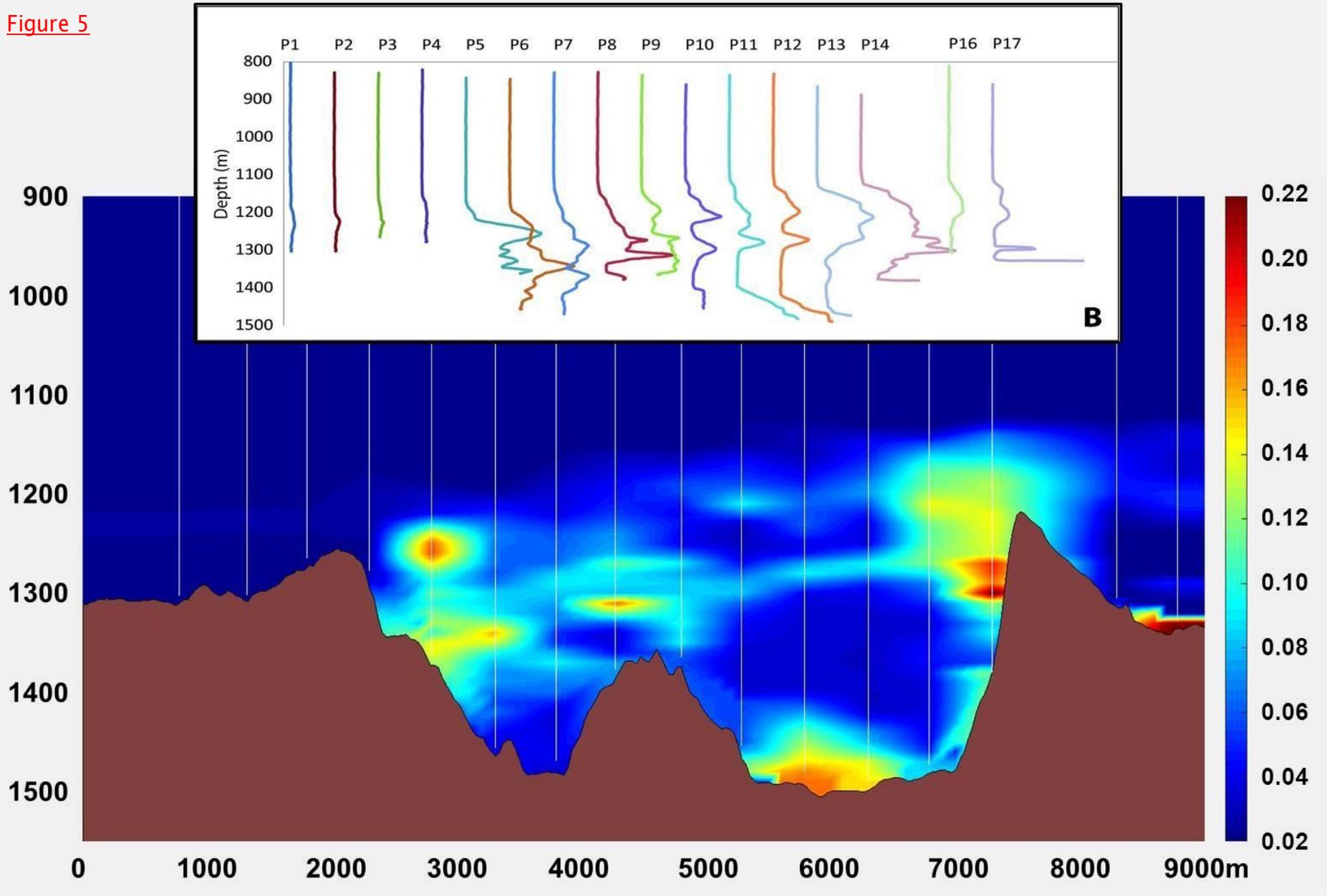


Figure 6

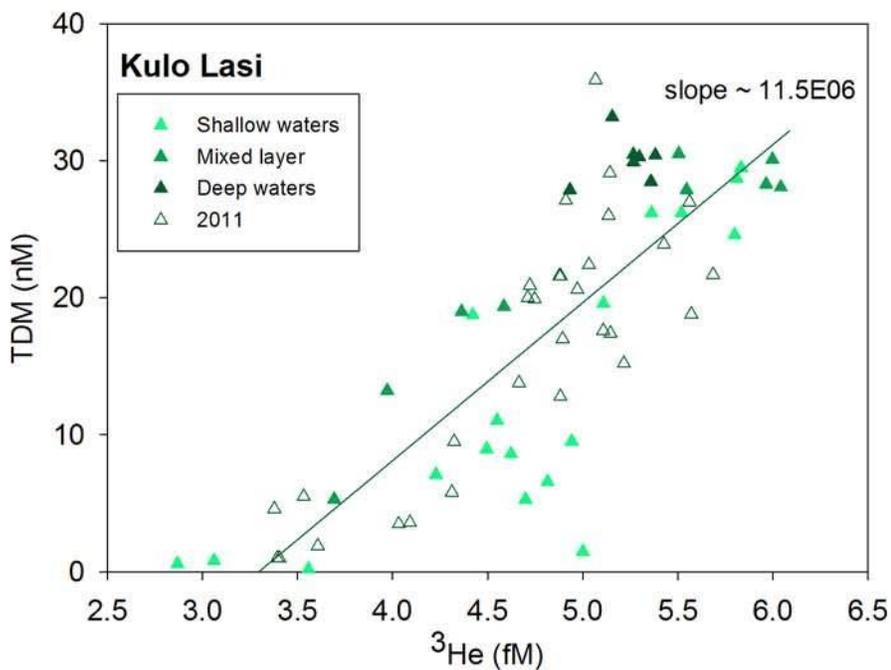
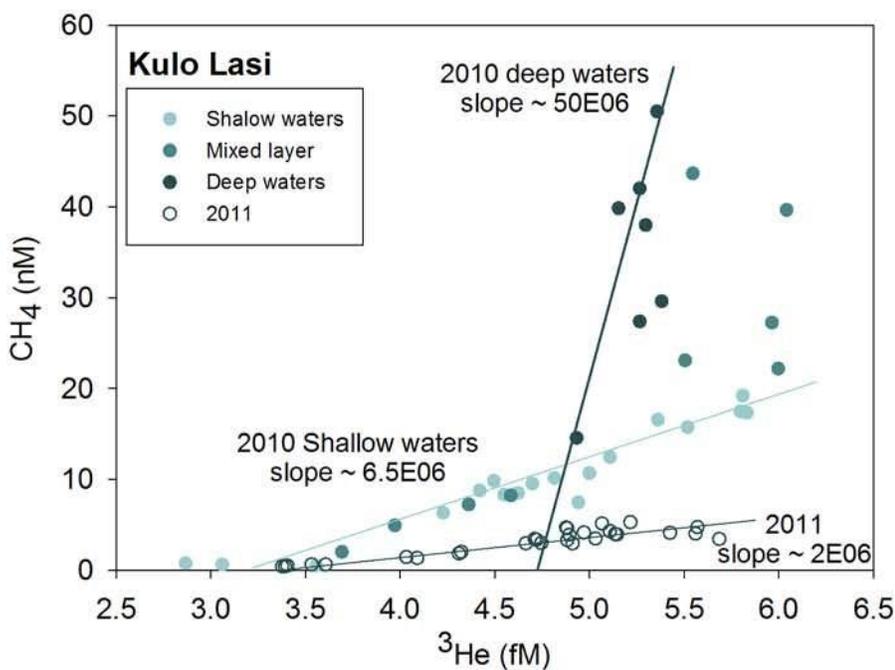
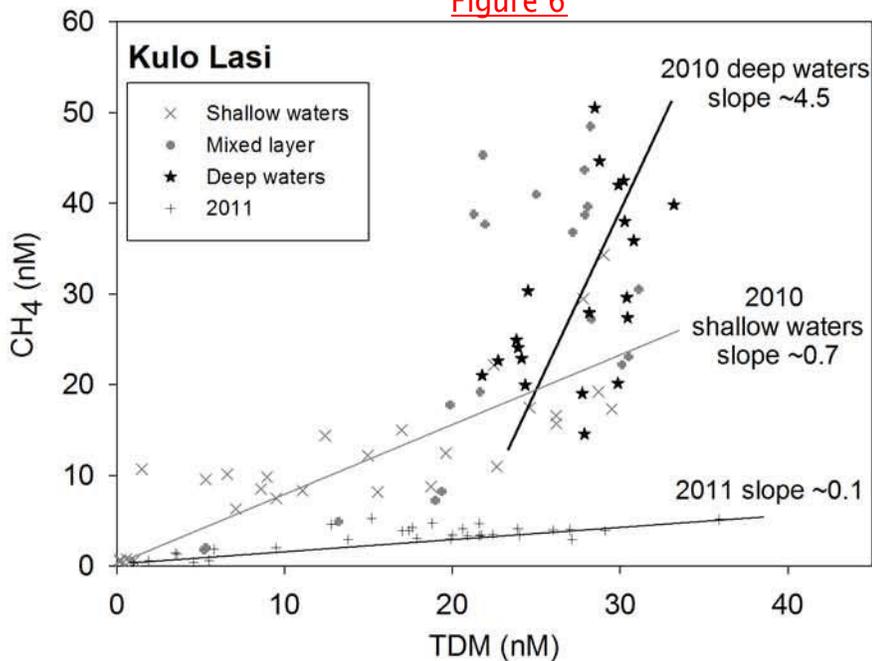


Figure 7

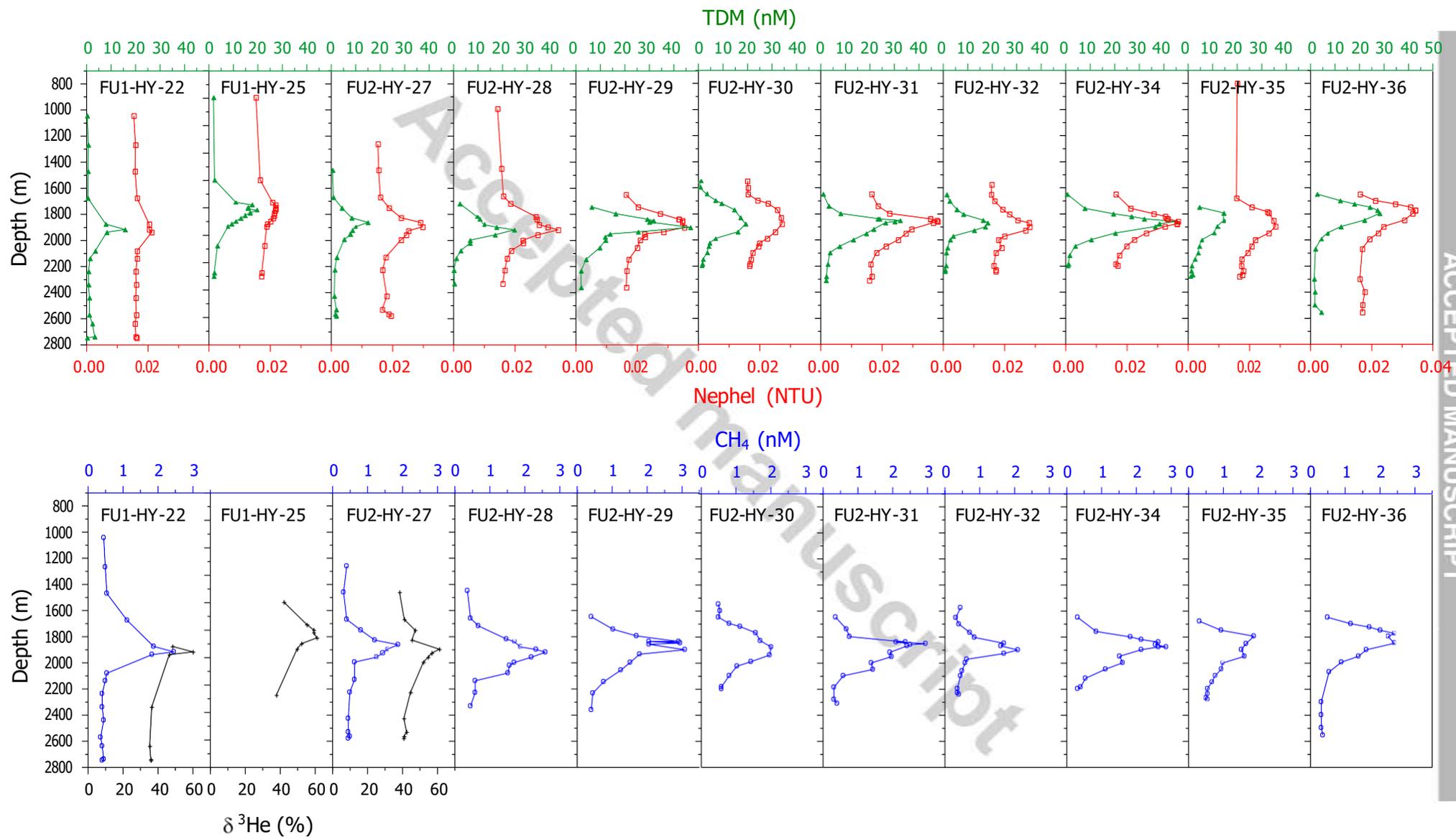


Figure 8

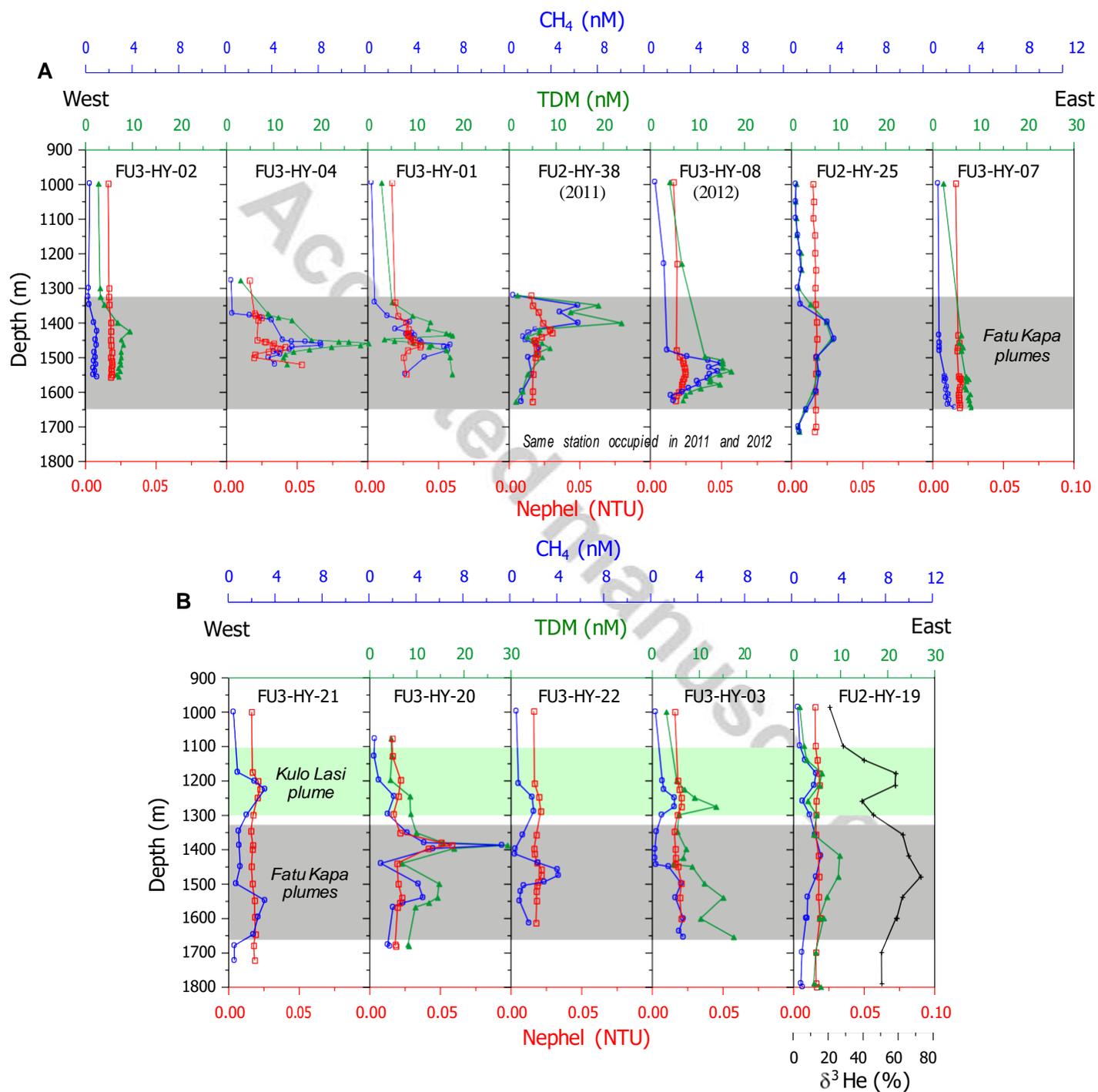


Figure 9

